

Our Ref: 11048P1 WO/JCM.lm

Your Ref:

Date: 5 July 2004

BY FACSIMILE & POST

REC'D SUPTO

20 DEC 2004

European Patent Office
International Preliminary Examination Authority
D-80298
Munich
GERMANY

Dear Sirs

International Patent Application No. PCT/GB03/02653
Reckitt Benckiser (UK) Limited et al
Due Date: 5 July 2004

We write in response to the Written Opinion of 5 March 2004. The Examiner is thanked for granting a one month extension within which to reply to the Written Opinion.

Please find enclosed new pages 15 and 16 of the specification as filed. For ease of reference we also enclose pages 15 and 16 showing the proposed amendments in manuscript.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the wax is a paraffin wax and that the composition includes water in an amount of from 50% to 98% by weight of the total weight of the composition. Basis for these amendments can be found in (old) claims 2 and 4 respectively.

Documents D1 to D5 will now be discussed.

D1 is a European patent application, EP 0 317 897 A1, in German. The document primarily describes an aqueous emulsion of paraffin oil, rather than a wax. Furthermore, the paraffin oil is present in an amount from 5 to 30 wt%, whereas the current invention stipulates the use of a paraffin wax in an amount up to 5 wt%.

Document D1 also mentions paraffin wax in a list of waxes that could possibly be included in "a small amount" in the description. However, no specific weight range is defined, and paraffin wax is not mentioned in the examples.

The Examiner correctly points out that in one of the examples, a type of wax, Montan ester wax, is present at 2.5 wt%. In order to distinguish from this prior art, the current invention has been limited to the use of paraffin wax.

D2 discloses an "aqueous composition" for impregnating a wipe used for removing stains from wooden surfaces. The composition contains an abrasive, a lubricant, a wax-like surface polishing agent, one or more emulsifiers, one or more solvents and a fatty acid derivative, which protects the skin. Various waxes are mentioned, not including paraffin wax. The Examiner directs attention to examples 3 and 4, each of which contains 3% wax by weight. However, the composition of example 4 is only 10 % water by weight, and the only aqueous component of the composition of example 3 is a 4 wt% solution of hydroxyethylmethyl-

cellulose, which is present in an amount of 27% by weight. This is a general statement indicating that higher amounts of water could be used.

Hence although D2 describes the use of an aqueous emulsion, the actual water content disclosed is much lower than is used in the present invention. Hence the limitation to 50-98% water into claim 1. Limitation to paraffin wax creates further distance from D2.

D3 is a US patent which describes a composition for impregnating wipes which contains a cationic biocide and has a pH of between 3.5 and 4.5. The Examiner correctly points out that one of the examples contains 0.1 wt% of a 50% lanolin derivative. However, lanolin can be used to describe a large number of compounds, not all of which are waxes, by any means.

The Examiner refers to the fact that D3 describes the way in which the wipes are packaged, which is similar to that of the current invention. We respectfully point out to the Examiner that we are not claiming the packaging system as novel in its own right.

D4 describes a wipe having improved opacity being formed from cellulosic fibres and titanium dioxide. It is concerned mainly with methods of manufacturing the wipe itself rather than the composition. The Examiner again notes the use of lanolin in a composition described. Again we respectfully submit that not all lanolin compounds are waxes.

In any event, both D3 and D4 are avoided by limiting claim 1 to the use of paraffin wax.

D5 is a Russian document, of which only the abstract is available in English. The abstract reveals however that the composition should comprise 8-11 wt% of wax. The present invention which requires wax to be present in an amount from 0.01 to 5 wt% is therefore not anticipated by D5.

It is submitted that the present invention as claimed is now both novel and inventive over the prior art and it is believed that it would now be appropriate to issue a clear International Preliminary Examination Report.

Insofar as any subject matter might otherwise be regarded as having been abandoned or disclaimed in view of the amendments made herewith, the applicant reserves the right to restore such subject matter and/or to file a divisional application in respect of such subject matter.

EPO Form 1037 is enclosed to enable you to acknowledge receipt.

Yours faithfully
RECKITT BENCKISER plc

John C McKnight

Encs
h:/patents/shared/jcm/crspndnc/11048P1-1

CLAIMS

1. A moist wipe for cleaning a wooden surface, the wipe comprising a sheet material pre-moistened with a liquid composition, being an aqueous emulsion comprising from 0.01 to 5% of a ^{paraffin} wax, ~~and~~ no silicone compounds or silicone compounds in an amount of less than 0.5% ^{and water in an amount of 50% to 98%} in each case by weight of the total weight of the liquid composition.
- 10 ~~2. A moist wipe as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the wax is a paraffin wax.~~
- 15 ~~2/~~ 2. A moist wipe as claimed in Claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein the wax is present in the composition in an amount of between 0.1% to 3% by weight of the total weight of the liquid composition.
- 20 ~~4. A moist wipe as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the composition includes water in an amount of 50% to 98% by weight of the total weight of the liquid composition.~~
- 25 ~~3/~~ 3. A moist wipe as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the liquid composition includes, as a carrier and/or a cleaner, an aliphatic C₁ to C₄ alcohol.
- ~~4/~~ 4. A moist wipe as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the sheet material comprises a porous, absorbent, non-woven fibrous material.
- 30 ~~5/~~ 5. A moist wipe as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the loading of the liquid composition on the wipe is in the range 30 to 150gm⁻².

6~~8~~. A package product comprising a substantially airtight container having a resealable opening and a wipe as claimed in any preceding claim.

5 7~~9~~. Use of a wipe as claimed in any of Claims 1 to ⁵~~4~~ for cleaning a surface.

8 10. A method of manufacturing a wipe as claimed in any of Claims 1 to ⁵~~4~~, the method comprising the steps of
10 providing a sheet material and moistening the sheet material with the liquid composition.

9 11. A method as claimed in Claim ⁸~~10~~ wherein a supply roll of sheet material is unwound to provide a continuously
15 moving web of material.

¹⁰~~12~~. A method as claimed in Claim ⁹~~11~~ wherein the web of the material is slit to form perforated tear zones, or individual wipes in the form of a stack.

20 ¹¹~~13~~. A moist wipe, packaged product, method of manufacturing a wipe or of using a wipe, in each case substantially as described herein.

CLAIMS

1. A moist wipe for cleaning a wooden surface, the wipe comprising a sheet material pre-moistened with a liquid composition, being an aqueous emulsion comprising from 0.01 to 5% of a paraffin wax, no silicone compounds or silicone compounds in an amount of less than 0.5% and water in an amount of 50% to 98% in each case by weight of the total weight of the liquid composition.
2. A moist wipe as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the wax is present in the composition in an amount of between 0.1% to 3% by weight of the total weight of the liquid composition.
3. A moist wipe as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the liquid composition includes, as a carrier and/or a cleaner, an aliphatic C₁ to C₄ alcohol.
4. A moist wipe as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the sheet material comprises a porous, absorbent, non-woven fibrous material.
5. A moist wipe as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the loading of the liquid composition on the wipe is in the range 30 to 150gm⁻².
6. A packaged product comprising a substantially airtight container having a resealable opening and a wipe as claimed in any preceding claim.
7. Use of a wipe as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 5 for cleaning a surface.

8. A method of manufacturing a wipe as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 5, the method comprising the steps of providing a sheet material and moistening the sheet material with the liquid composition.

9. A method as claimed in Claim 8 wherein a supply roll of sheet material is unwound to provide a continuously moving web of material.

10

10. A method as claimed in Claim 9 wherein the web of the material is slit to form perforated tear zones, or individual wipes in the form of a stack.

15 11. A moist wipe, packaged product, method of manufacturing a wipe or of using a wipe, in each case substantially as described herein.